

Old Bedlam
Fort Laramie, Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-1

HABS
WYO
8-FOLA,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Branch of Plans and Design, Region II
National Park Service
Omaha, Nebraska

OLD BEDLAM
Fort Laramie, Wyoming

Wyo. #1

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CUSTODIAN

National Park Service

DATE OF ERECTION

1849

BUILDER

Engineer Dept., U. S. Army

PRESENT CONDITION

The building is in poor condition, the structural shell remaining mainly - with front porch partially fallen, portions of interior floors missing, poor roof with many missing shingles, chimneys fallen above the roof, missing and broken doors and windows, fallen plaster, etc. Fire-place mantles, stair newel posts and balusters are missing. One mantle, however, was found stored in another fort building, measured and photographed. Although Old Bedlam is in poor condition the structural framework is relatively sound, and few studs, joists or rafters would have to be replaced if restored.

Alterations which have been made include removal of the original two-story wings to the rear of the building, connecting two story porch between these wings, and exterior stairways to the front and rear porches. Old drawings and photographs show these wings and stairways. Portions of the old foundation under the wings remain. From old photographs taken in 1876 and 1877 it appears the wings were removed about that time. Other changes include addition of a four room wing on the rear - one story in height, some changes affecting the interior stairways, removal of partition dividing the first story and second story porches at the center, and bricking up the fireplace openings. The dates of these changes were not determined.

NUMBER OF STOREYS

Two

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION

Foundation (Main building) - sandstone

Frame (Main building) - braced frame construction, joints mortised and tenoned - sills 10 in., corner posts and door and window jambs 4 in. by 4 in., second and third story sills 4 in. by 6 in., joists $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 10 in., porch floor joists 2 in. and 3 in. by 6 in., main roof rafters tapered 3 in. by 6 in. to 3 in. by 9 in., porch rafters 3 in. by 4 in. All exterior walls are filled with red soft bruned brick or adobe except gable ends in attic.

Siding (Main building) - end elevations $3\frac{1}{8}$ in. by $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. (not beveled) laid $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. to 7 in. to weather, front and rear elevations $3\frac{1}{8}$ in. by $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. laid approximately $4\text{--}3\frac{1}{4}$ in. to weather - all siding nailed directly to studs.

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Exterior walls (Rear wing) - gravel and lime mix (limestone quarried and burnt by soldiers near Guernsey, Wyoming), with 2 in. by 4 in. uprights used in forming walls left in place, and on interior faces used for nailing lath. Exterior face of walls plastered with $\frac{3}{4}$ in. to 1 in. thick lime sand plaster.

Floors (Main building) - random width, tongued and grooved boards. (Rear wing) - 1 in. by 6 in. tongued and grooved. (Note - see pages at end of report for face widths and accompanying chart for direction layed).

Wood used in construction - the woods used in construction belong to the white pine and yellow pine group. The attached copy of letter from the Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, gives further information relative to pieces of wood from Old Bedlam which were submitted for identification.

Hardware - all door locks and cupboard hardware has been removed with exception of one door latch in the rear wing. A few door and shutter hinges and shutter latches remain.

Nails - cut nails are used throughout for nailing siding, flooring shingles, et cetera, gauges as follows: 30d, 20d, 10d, 8d and 4d.

Painting (Exterior) - undercoat - white, overcoat - maroon, shutters - green.

Painting (Interior) - all interior walls, ceilings, woodwork and part of floors have been painted as follows:

Hall I, 1st and 2nd floors - walls and ceilings painted light blue; doors, window trim, etc., dark brown; stair treads and risers varnished walnut.

Hall II, 1st floor - rear part up to closet under stair, light grey walls and ceiling; front part Pink walls and ceiling; with wainscot of maroon, color 3 ft. 8 in. high on outside wall from front door to stair and running up stair 3 ft. 1 in., measured perpendicular from top of stringer. Wainscot on inside wall 3 ft. 8 in. above floor between doors to Room VI and Room IV. Wainscot 5 ft. $11\frac{1}{2}$ in. high above floor from door to Room IV to front door. Doors, window frames, trim, et cetera painted maroon. Floor border 12 in. wide of Dark red.

Hall II, 2nd floor - wainscot, from first floor continues up the stairs as noted and extends back from the face of the top riser 5 ft. 3 in., height 2 ft. $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. above floor. Walls and ceiling painted pink over grey undercoat. Border around floor 12 in wide of Dark bluish red color. Doors, windows, trim, etc., painted maroon.

Room IV - Walls lavender, ceiling grey, with maroon circle in center 3 ft. $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter. The grey of ceiling extends down walls

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1/2 in., then 1 1/2 in. stripe of maroon, then 3/4 in lavender same as walls, then 3/16 in maroon stripe. Floor has 2 ft. dark red border around room. Doors, windows, trim, et cetera maroon.

Room V - Light blue walls & ceiling, blue-green border above base board 7 in. high, border down from ceiling on walls 7 in. wide, and border each way from room corners 5 in. wide. Border around room on floor 4 ft. 3 in. wide painted dark red. Doors, windows, trim, et cetera dark brown.

Room VI - Walls and ceiling grey. Doors, windows, trim, et cetera maroon.

Room VII, VIII, IX, X - Walls powder blue over pink undercoat. Doors, windows, trim et cetera Battleship grey.

Room XI - Doors, windows, trim, et cetera dark brown.

Room XII - Dark blue border around floor 2 ft. 8 in. wide. Doors, windows, trim, et cetera maroon.

Room XIII - Doors, windows, trim, et cetera, dark brown.

Room XIV - Walls and ceiling grey. Doors, windows, trim, et cetera, maroon.

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Floor boards are tongued and grooved boards, random widths. Face widths of boards are as follows: Beginning as noted and reading in direction of arrow as shown on accompanying chart, page 7.

Hall I - 1st Floor. Beginning at face of plaster - 5", 1'-0 5/8", 1'-8 3/8", 2'-2 3/4", 2'-8 3/4", 3'-2 3/8", 3'-7 1/4", 4'-1 1/2", 4'-8", 5'-2", 5'-8 5/8", 6'-3", 6'-8 3/4", 7'-3 5/8", 7'-9 1/4", 8'-4 1/2", 8'-10 7/8", 9'-5 3/8", 10'-0 7/8", 10'-6 1/2", 11'-0 1/2", 11'-6 1/4", 12'-0", 12'-4 3/4", 12'-9", 13'-2 1/4", 13'-7 7/8", 14'-1 3/8", 14'-6 1/4", 15'-0 1/8", 15'-4 3/4", 15'-10 1/8", 16'-3 3/8", 16'-8 5/8", 17'-2 1/4", 17'-8 1/8", 18'-1 1/4", 18'-6 1/4", 18'-10 1/4", 19'-2 3/4", 19'-7 3/8", 20'-0 3/8", 20'-5 7/8", 20'-11", 21'-3 7/8", 21'-10 5/8", 22'-3 3/8", 22'-9 1/4", 23'-2 3/4", 23'-7 5/8", 24'-2 1/2", 24'-8", 25'-1 1/2", 25'-7", 26'-1", 26'-6", 27'-1", 27'-5 3/4", 27'-11 1/4", 28'-4 1/4", 28'-9 1/2", 29'-1 1/2", 29'-5 1/2", 29'-9 1/4", 30'-1 3/4", 30'-6", 30'-10 1/2", 31'-2 3/4", 31'-8", 32'-0 1/4", 32'-6", 32'-10 1/4", 33'-3 1/4", 33'-7", 33'-11 3/4", (34'-2 1/4" to threshold), (34'-6 3/4" far side of threshold), (34'-10" outside of sill).

Hall I - 2nd Floor. From face of baseboard - 1 1/4", 7 1/2", 1'-2 5/8", 1'-9 7/8", 2'-2 3/4", 2'-9 3/8", 3'-4 1/2", 3'-11 3/4", 4'-7 1/2", 5'-3", 5'-10 3/8", 6'-5 3/4", 7'-1 1/4", 7'-8 3/8", 8'-3 1/2", 8'-11 1/8", 9'-6 1/2", 10'-2 1/2", 10'-10", 11'-5", 12'-0 1/2", 12'-6 3/4", 13'-1 1/2", 13'-7", 14'-2 1/4", 14'-9 7/8", 15'-5 1/4", 15'-11 1/2", 16'-6 3/4", 17'-1", 17'-6", 17'-9 3/4", 18'-3", 18'-8 1/4", 19'-0 1/4", 19'-7 3/8", 20'-5", 21'-0", 21'-7 3/8", 22'-0 1/4", 22'-5 1/8", 23'-3", 23'-8 1/4", 24'-1 1/4", 24'-6 3/8", 25'-1 1/4", 25'-8", 26'-1 3/4", 26'-6 1/2", 27'-0 1/2", 27'-8 1/2", 28'-3", 28'-11 1/4", 29'-3 3/4", 29'-8 1/2", 30'-4 1/4", 30'-9 3/4", 31'-0 3/4", 31'-7 1/2", 32'-1", 32'-7 3/4", 33'-0 1/4", 33'-4 1/2", 33'-9 1/2". (34'-0 1/2" to threshold).

Hall II - 1st Floor. From outside line of 10"x10" sill. 5 1/2", 1'-0", 1'-8", 2'-4", 2'-10 3/4", 3'-4", 3'-9 3/4", 4'-4 3/4", 5'-2", 6'-5", 6'-9 1/2", 7'-2", 7'-10", 8'-5 1/2", 9'-1", 10'-1 1/4", 10'-9", 11'-2 1/2", 11'-10 3/4", 12'-6", 13'-1 1/4", 13'-9 1/4", 14'-5 3/4", 15'-1 1/4", 15'-8 1/2", 16'-3", 16'-9 3/4", 17'-3 3/4", 17'-11 1/2", 18'-6 1/2", 19'-2 3/4", 19'-10 1/2", 20'-5", 20'-11 3/4", 21'-6", 22'-1 3/4", 22'-8 1/8", 23'-1 1/2", 23'-7 5/8", 24'-1 7/8", 24'-8 5/8", 25'-2 5/8", 25'-9 7/8", 26'-6", 27'-1 1/2", 28'-1", 28'-8", 29'-0 1/2", 29'-7 1/4", 29'-11 3/4", 30'-6", 30'-11 1/4", 31'-3 1/4", 31'-8 1/4", 32'-1 1/2", 32'-7", 33'-1", 33'-5 3/8", 33'-11", 34'-4". (34'-8 1/4" to threshold).

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Hall II - 2nd Floor. From face of baseboard. 5", 10 3/4", 1'-1 3/4", 1'-11", 2'-4 1/2", 3'-0", 3'-4 1/4", 3'-10", 4'-1 1/2", 4'-5 3/4", 4'-10 3/4", 5'-4 1/2", 5'-8 3/4", 6'-0 1/4", 6'-7 1/2", 7'-0", 7'-4 1/2", 7'-8", 8'-1", 8'-6", 8'-11", 9'-3 1/2", 9'-9", 10'-8", 11'-4", 11'-9 1/4", 12'-2", 12'-9 1/4", 13'-1 3/4", 13'-6", 13'-10 1/8", 14'-2 1/4", 14'-7", 15'-1 1/2", 15'-5 3/4", 15'-9 3/4", 16'-5", 16'-9 7/8", 17'-4 7/8", 17'-11 1/2", 18'-4 1/2", 18'-8 1/2", 19'-3 5/8", 19'-7 7/8", 20'-0 1/8", 20'-4 7/8", 20'-9 5/8", 21'-2 3/4", 21'-8", 22'-2 1/4", 22'-7 1/4", 23'-2 1/2", 23'-7", 23'-11 3/4", 24'-5 1/2", 25'-0 3/8", 25'-5 3/4", 25'-10 7/8", 26'-4 1/4", 26'-10 1/4", 27'-5 3/8", 27'-9 1/2", 28'-2", 29'-1 3/4", 29'-6", 29'-10 1/2", 30'-2 1/2", 30'-6 1/2", 31'-0 1/2", 31'-9 1/4", 32'-1 3/4", 32'-6 3/4", 33'-0 1/2", 33'-6 1/4", 33'-10 1/2". (34'-1 3/4" to threshold).

Room III. From face of brick on fire place. 3 1/2", 8 5/8", 1'-2", 1'-7 1/4", 2'-0 3/4", 2'-6 3/4", 2'-11 1/2", 3'-4 1/2", 3'-9 3/4", 4'-2 3/4", 4'-8 3/4", 5'-2 3/4", 5'-8 5/8", 6'-1 7/8", 6'-6 1/2", 6'-11 1/2", 7'-4 3/8", 7'-9 5/8", 8'-3 1/4", 8'-8 1/4", 9'-1 5/8", 9'-7", 10'-1 1/8", 10'-6 3/8", 10'-11", 11'-3 3/4", 11'-9 1/4", 12'-3 1/4", 12'-8 1/2", 13'-2", 13'-6 1/2", 14'-0", 14'-5 1/4", 14'-10 1/2", 15'-3 3/4", 15'-8 1/4", 16'-1 7/8", 16'-7 1/4". (16'-10 7/8" to threshold), (17'-5 5/8" to far side of threshold).

Rooms VI and IV. From face of baseboard. 6 1/4", 1'-1 3/4", 1'-10 1/4", 2'-4", 2'-11 3/4", 3'-7 3/4", 4'-4 1/8", 5'-0 1/4", 5'-7 1/2", 6'-2 1/2", 6'-9 5/8", 7'-4 1/4", 7'-11 1/4", 8'-6 1/4", 9'-0 1/2", 9'-5 3/4", 9'-10 5/8", 10'-5 1/8", 11'-0", 11'-5 3/4", 11'-10 5/8", 12'-6 3/4", 13'-1 1/4", 13'-8 1/4", 14'-4 1/4", 15'-0 3/4", 15'-8 1/4", 16'-4 3/8", 16'-11 1/4", 17'-4", 17'-9 3/8", 18'-3 1/4", 18'-11 3/4", 19'-6 1/8", 20'-2", 20'-8 1/4", 21'-3", 21'-9 3/4", 22'-6 1/8", 23'-2 1/2", 23'-10 3/4", 24'-5 1/4", 25'-0 1/2", 25'-7 3/4", 26'-4", 26'-11 1/4", 27'-6 1/8", 28'-1", 28'-8 7/8", 29'-3 3/8", 29'-9 1/2", 30'-6", 31'-2 1/2", 31'-10", 32'-5 3/4", 33'-1 3/4", 33'-8 1/2". (34'-2 1/4" to face of baseboard).

Room V. From face of plaster. 6 1/2", 1'-1 1/2", 1'-10", 2'-5 5/8", 3'-1 3/8", 3'-9", 4'-2 1/4", 4'-9 5/8", 5'-4 1/4", 5'-11", 6'-6", 7'-0 3/4", 7'-7 3/4", 8'-2 3/4", 8'-7 1/2", 9'-3", 9'-10 3/4", 10'-5", 10'-9 7/8", 11'-2 3/4", 11'-7 3/8", 12'-3", 12'-7 3/4", 13'-0 3/4", 13'-5 7/8", 13'-11 1/4", 14'-4 1/4", 14'-10 1/4", 15'-4", 15'-8 1/8", 16'-0 1/4", 16'-7", 16'-11 3/4". (17'-0 1/2" to baseboard).

Rooms VII and VIII. No floor in these rooms.

Rooms IX and X. 1 x 6 tongued and grooved boards, uniform widths.

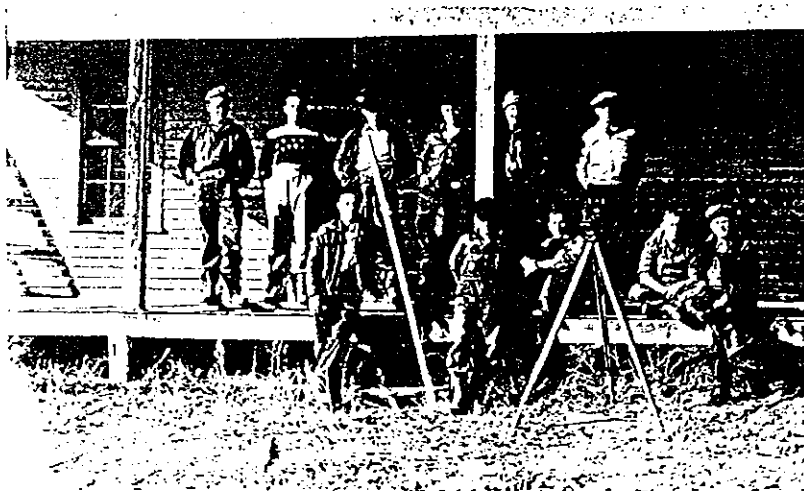
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Rooms XIII and XI - From face of baseboard. 4", 10 1/4", 1'-4 1/2", 1'-9 3/4", 2'-3 1/4", 2'-8 3/4", 3'-3 3/4", 3'-7 1/2", 4'-1 1/4", 4'-7 1/2", 5'-0", 5'-4 1/2", 5'-9 1/2", 6'-2 1/4", 6'-8 1/2", 7'-2 1/2", 7'-8 1/4", 8'-1", 8'-6", 8'-11 1/4", 9'-7 1/4", 10'-2 1/8", 10'-8 3/4", 11'-3 1/4", 11'-9 1/2", 12'-5", 12'-11 1/2", 13'-5 1/2", 13'-11 3/4", 14'-6 1/8", 14'-11 5/8", 15'-5 1/4", 15'-11", 16'-5" (16'-9 1/2" to threshold, 17'-2" to far side of threshold), 17'-7 3/4", 18'-1 7/8", 18'-7", 18'-11 1/4", 19'-3 3/4", 19'-11 1/4", 20'-3 7/8", 20'-10 3/4", 21'-5 3/4", 21'-11 3/4", 22'-5", 22'-11 3/4", 23'-5 1/2", 24'-1 1/8", 24'-8 1/8", 25'-2 1/2", 25'-9 5/8", 26'-5", 3 boards missing. 28'-2 1/2", 28'-7 1/4", 29'-0 1/2", 29'-5 1/2", 29'-10 3/4", 30'-4", 30'-10", 31'-4 1/4", 31'-11", 32'-5 1/2", 33'-0 1/2", 33'-7 3/4" (34'-1 1/2" to baseboard).

Rooms XIV and XII - From face of baseboard. 5", 10 1/4", 1'-3 1/2", 1'-8 3/4", 2'-1 3/4", 2'-7", 3'-0 1/8", 3'-5 1/2", 3'-10 3/4", 4'-4", 4'-9 1/8", 5'-2 1/8", 5'-7 3/8", 6'-0 1/2", 6'-5 3/4", 6'-11", 7'-4", 7'-9 1/4", 8'-2 3/4", 9'-1 1/4", 9'-5 1/2", 9'-10 1/2" - continue uniform width to - 17'-3 1/2", 17'-10 3/4", 18'-3 1/8", 18'-7 1/2", 19'-2 1/2", 19'-10 5/8", 20'-2 5/8", 20'-9 7/8", 21'-2 1/2", 21'-8 3/8", 22'-2 1/2", 22'-7 1/2", 23'-3 5/8", 23'-7 3/4", 24'-2 1/2", 24'-7 1/4", 25'-2", 25'-6 3/8", 25'-11", 26'-3 1/4", 26'-10", 27'-2 1/4", 27'-6 1/2", 27'-11", 28'-7", 28'-11 1/8", 29'-5 1/2", 29'-9 3/4", 30'-5", 30'-10 3/4", 31'-3", 31'-7 3/8", 32'-1 3/4", 32'-6", 32'-11 3/4", 33'-4 1/2", 33'-8", (34'-2 1/4" to threshold).

Wilfred G. Hill
Wilfred G. Hill
Associate Architect

UNOFFICIAL
NOT PART
OF DATA PGS.



Survey of Buildings & Ruins - December 1939
Fort Laramie National Monument

By Wilfred G. Hill, Architect
Region VI Office, Omaha, Nebraska

On porch

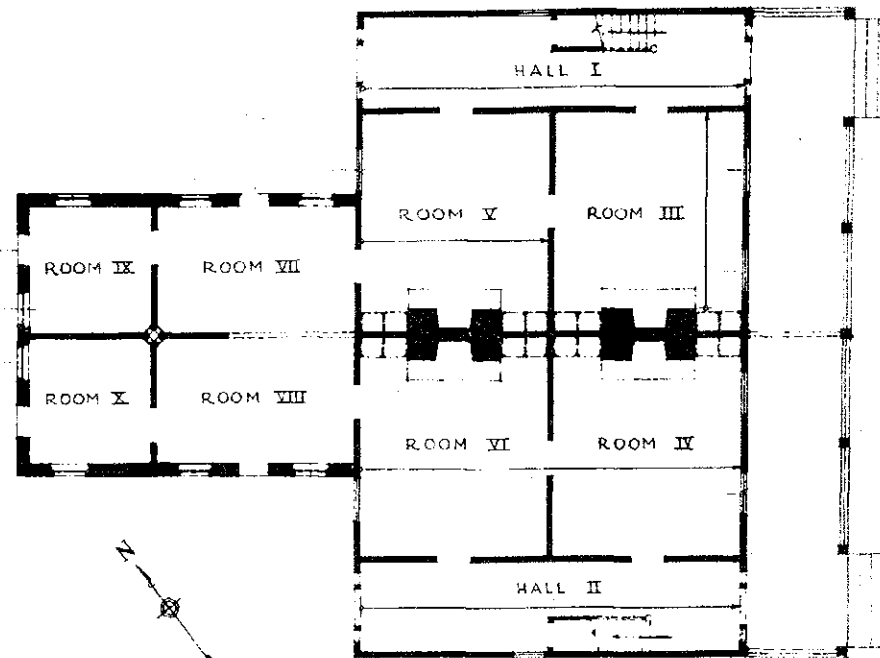
Tilton
Snyder
Pyfier
Rommel
Griffith
Hill
Morton
Miller

On ground

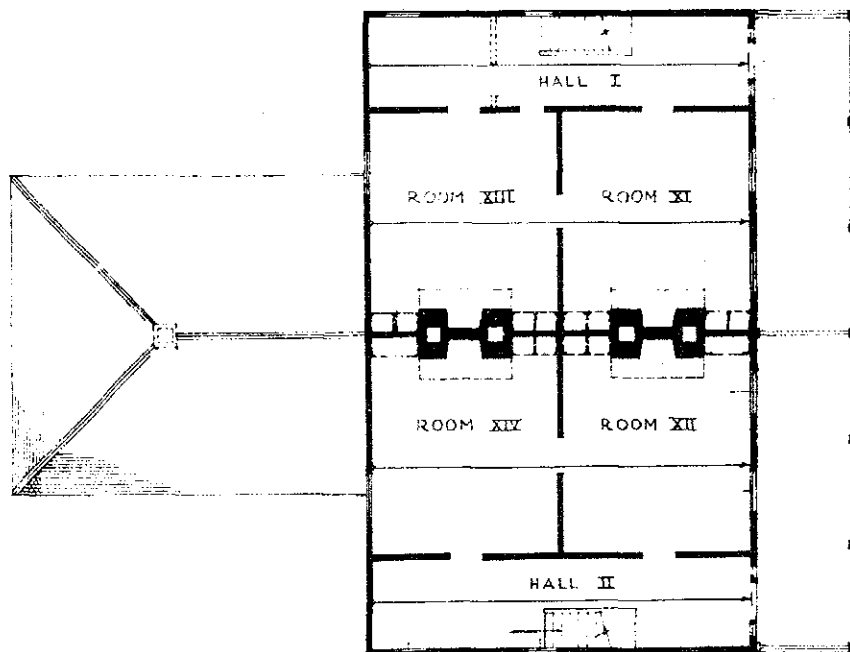
Smolen
Brister

Survey made with assistance of
enrollees, Lake Guernsey, Wyo.

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FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Forest Products Laboratory

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Address reply to
DIRECTOR
and refer to

Madison, Wisconsin

RPLZ

July 27, 1939

Mr. Thos. J. Allen, Jr., Regional Director,
Region Two, National Park Service,
U. S. Department of the Interior,
Omaha, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of July 20 and the package of wood samples from
Old Bedlam at Fort Laramie are received.

The lath and picket fence are identified as wood of the white
pine group. Since the various species of the white pine group cannot
be distinguished by means of the wood alone, we cannot positively
determine the species, but since the shingles are a species of yellow
pine and not cedar it is very likely that all of the material was cut
from local species. The only species of the white pine group growing
in the vicinity of Fort Laramie is limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) and
undoubtedly the lath and picket fence are of that species if the lumber
was obtained locally.

All other samples, including the shingles, belong to the yellow
pine group. Although we cannot distinguish all species of the yellow
pine group by means of the wood alone, it is quite likely that the
samples are ponderosa pine, since that is the principal species of
the yellow pine group growing in the vicinity of Fort Laramie.

It is interesting to note that the upstairs porch flooring and the
inside flooring (upstairs) were sawn by hand, as is indicated by the
irregular but more or less straight saw marks on the back of the
flooring. The upstairs inside flooring, the floor of the front porch,
the siding, lath, and shingles were cut with a circular saw. It is
not possible to say how the window shutter and picket fence lumber was
cut since these pieces do not show saw marks distinctly.

Very truly yours,

CARLILE P. WINSLOW, Director

By /s/ Arthur Koehler Acting.

cc Rocky Mountain Sta.

Addendum to
Fort Laramie, Old Bedlam
(Fort Laramie National Historic Site)
Fort Laramie
Goshen County
Wyoming

HABS No. WY-1

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PHOTOGRAPH

REPRODUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240